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**ACTUAL STATE OF THE SLAVE TRADE ON THE COAST
OF AFRICA.**

[The following article is from the Amulet for 1832, said to have been written by a distinguished British Naval Officer, who passed three years on the African Coast. We omit a few passages which relate less directly to the main object of the article.]

THE question of the existence of Slavery in the British dominions is now likely to be tried with all that effect which the voice of the whole community raised against it can give to it.—Therefore it may be important, as bearing directly upon the subject, to state what is the present situation of the coast of Africa; that it may be seen how little can be done to ameliorate its condition as long as we sanction by our conduct the existence of slavery elsewhere; and that there is demand to supply the waste of life, which will be supplied *per fas* and *nefas*.

From Cape Shortel, in 35° N. to Lat. 18° N., the coast is inhabited by the Moors of Morocco and other tribes. With those of the Moors the Europeans regularly trade, as they have a succession of towns on the coast, as far as Wednom, on the river Akassa. From hence there is a constant intercourse with the interior; and a caravan sets out regularly and returns from Timboctoo, to trade in gums and gold-dust.

Having passed the coast, to Cape Bojador, is a desert and very dangerous tract. It is frequented by tribes of wandering Moors, who come to the shore on the speculation of wrecks, where they build huts of sea-weeds, and watch the approach of ships. They

plundered both the vessel, and made slaves of the crews and passengers. It was not till the 11th that Adams and Reilly, whose names were on the cargo papers, were detained in a miserable captivity.

The first European settlement ever attempted on the coast was at Portendine, from whence the Dutch brought gums in the beginning of the seventeenth century. The French afterwards established a factory there, and built a fort in 1724, but it has been demolished by the English, and under a treaty still in force they can have no permanent settlement in this place: so all traces of European civilization are obliterated. There is, however, a Moorish town, the natives of which are peculiarly rude and importunate to strangers. The coast is very hazy, and cannot be seen at the distance of seven or eight miles. The water is shallow, but full of excellent fish. The wet season sets in during July, and continues through August and September; the rain is not very profuse, and the sea-breeze is regular and cool, so that it might be supposed a healthy place: but the fact is quite otherwise. All the crews of his Majesty's ships suffered severely from it. They sink under a heavy oppression of spirits, and are greatly afflicted with the scurvy. The most trifling scratch turns to an inveterate ulcer, and, before they are a week at anchor, the whole ship's company are more or less afflicted. To account for this, it was remarked that the bottom of the sea, to a considerable distance, was a soft slimy mud, and the shallow water alongside the ship was always foul and dirty, of a dingy green colour, similar in appearance to stagnant marsh-water. There was no perceptible current to set it in motion; and the wind, blowing over this extended and still surface, and bearing with it the miasma engendered in the exhalations, was necessarily tainted with its unwholesome quality, and instead of the sea-breeze being salutary, as in other places, it was found to be most noxious and pestiferous. Yet this turbid water abounded in fish to such a degree that the sea seemed alive with them; and when a swab was thrown overboard, and dipped in the water alongside, it would come up covered with different kinds of small shellfish; and various animalcula rapidly engendered in the putrescent fluid.

The first European settlement now existing is Fort Louis, built by the French, on an island in the river Senegal, in latitude 16°

N.; so that nineteen degrees of the coast of Africa, from the entrance of the Strait of Gibraltar, no attempt is made to improve the natives by any contact of European habits and manners, except those which the short visits of occasional ships may communicate.

Next follows Goree, in latitude 14° N., built on an island within the great promontory of Cape Verde. It is nothing more than a barren rock, but is rendered important by its situation. It also, as well as the former belongs to the French.

To this succeed the settlements on the river Gambier, which belong both to the French and English. The first, near the mouth of the river, is Bathurst, built by the English on the low sandy island of St. Mary, having behind it a marsh almost always dry at low water; and, although the tides flow over and cover it, it is highly offensive and insalubrious. The town is particularly unhealthy, and subject, during the rainy season, to the worst description of fever. Those whom duty or speculation induce to reside there are the victims of ill health; while all who can leave it go to reside, during that period, to the Cape de Verde Islands or Goree. Here the ground is comparatively high, capable of cultivation, and surrounded by a pretty country; but the swamps of the other shore were preferred, because there was depth of water for shipping quite close to the town.

The trade up the Gambier, with the interior, is considerable for all the produce of the country, but particularly for gums, for which they send up from Bathurst two ships annually, from March to July, for whatever quantity the Moors may have collected, who bring it for sale, and exchange it for cotton manufactured goods and gun-powder.

Seven leagues higher up is James Fort, built also by the English; and Fort McCarthy, called after Sir Charles, the adjutant-governor of Sierra Leone. On this river is also the settlement of Abredam, established by the French; and carrying on the same commerce as the former, to whom they are formidable rivals. At this point of the coast Europeans have confined themselves to a legitimate traffic, and they have not yet polluted it by the purchase of slaves.

From hence, for six degrees of latitude, the coast is very low, and scarcely discernible, except from some tall trees growing in

the swamps, which look like islands in a vast expanse of water. It is every where intersected by the mouths of innumerable rivers, forming uncountable deltas, and communicating together by cross channels. The shores of these rivers are covered with Portuguese establishments, and here commences that traffic in human flesh which has entailed such misery on the African and such disgrace on the European.

The principal of these rivers are called the Cassamanza, Cacheo, and Bissao. On these the slave factories are established, which are the great marts where the traffic is supported and perpetuated, by means of their contiguous settlements in the Cape de Verde Islands. The *locality* of this part of the coast renders it, unfortunately, well calculated for the purpose. It is in vain that His Majesty's cruisers watch the mouths of the rivers; they have certain information, perhaps, that a slave cargo is sailing, and hourly expected down a particular branch of the stream; and they blockade it so strictly that it is impossible for it to escape; but, in the meantime, it passes by a cross channel into another, and so escapes by a distant mouth while the cruiser is hourly expecting it. Just before this coast is situated an archipelago of islands. One of these, named Bulima, was so conveniently circumstanced for watching the debouche of the Rio Grande, and other streams, infamous for slave-ships, which opened in its vicinity, that it was purchased from the native sovereign, and an English settlement placed on it, by the late Captain Beaver. In consequence of some misunderstanding, it was given up, till Captain Arabin again arranged matters; but unfortunately, the swampy coast in the vicinity renders the situation so very unhealthy, that it is probable this important post cannot be re-established or continued.

The Portuguese settlements here extend along the rivers, for nearly three degrees of latitude, to Cape Vargas. The country is exceedingly rich and fertile, with a numerous population, particularly along the river Cassamanza, where the Portuguese have factories for one hundred and fifty miles up the river, and they could carry on a most advantageous trade with the Felloops, and other nations, for ivory, aromatic seed, dye-wood, and gold-dust. On the river is a race of people descended from themselves—the offspring of the first settlers, but now hardly to be recognized

from the aboriginal Negroes. They raise remarkably fine cotton and indigo, and manufacture from them cloth of a dye and texture highly esteemed in Africa. It is, however, in narrow breadths, about six inches wide, and then sewed together—like the bundles of the linen originally manufactured in Ireland—and it is susceptible of much greater improvement; but the Portuguese, neglecting these advantages and capabilities of a people who have a mixture of their own blood in their veins, direct their attention almost wholly to the traffic of slaves, and sell indiscriminately these ingenious artificers, with their wives and children, wherever they can catch them.

The great outlet for slaves at this place is the Cape de Verde Islands, which lie contiguous. The governors of these islands, and the dependencies on the opposite coast, are men of bad character, sent here as on a forlorn hope, to get rid of them; they are generally naval commanders, who are so miserably paid that they engage without scruple in the slave-trade, and are always the principal persons concerned in it. They are not ashamed and do not hesitate to avow the fact, though they know it is the principal part of their duty to suppress it. They excuse themselves by saying that they have no other means of living.

The flat coast extends from the mouth of these rivers to Sierra Leone: but it is watered by several others equally infamous for the slave-trade. The principal of these rivers are the Pongas and the Nunez. To the former, foreigners trade for rice, ivory, gold-dust, and other articles. Those who principally frequent it are the American blacks from Cape Mesurado, and the British merchants from the Isles de Loss, who have factories established along both rivers. To the influence and example of these two classes of traders, and the lawful and salutary trade they carry on, is to be attributed the fact that there is here no direct traffic for slaves, nor do slave-ships resort to these rivers, as they do to others, expressly for such a purpose. Such, however, is the inveteracy of custom long established, and cupidity long indulged, that it is known a number of slaves are sent annually from hence to other marts on the coast: these are brought from the interior, and dispatched coastwise, in small vessels and canoes: and, more generally, by inland navigation, from branch to branch of the great rivers, to the factories on Rio Grande, and from thence, in larger

numbers, to Bissao, and direct to the Cape de Verde Islands. This circumstance is clearly proved by the testimony of such of the poor slaves themselves as have been captured in the Atlantic passage. The *Lomicho*, Portuguese schooner, was taken by the *North Star*, with slaves from Bissao for the Cape de Verde Islands. Many of them were natives of the country about the Pongas; they were kidnapped by slaver, or sold to pay for a palaver, or some such frivolous cause. They had been conveyed by land and inland navigation all the way to Bissao, where they were manacled and confined till a sufficient number was collected together to form a cargo, and then they were shipped, under a lawful passport, as domestics. A boat was sent up to explore the river Nunez, and ascended for eighteen days. They saw no vessels or habitations but one human being, who fled at their approach into the mangroves. No doubt he supposed the boat's crew were slavers on a kidnapping expedition.

The river Nunez carries on a larger lawful trade with foreigners than, perhaps, any river on the western coast of Africa. Several European factories, particularly English, are established on its banks, where they derive an extensive traffic for the produce of the interior, and give in exchange rum, tobacco, cloth, and gunpowder. Besides the usual articles of produce, the natives, in this place, manufacture their gold-dust into different ingenious articles, particularly rings, with considerable taste and ingenuity; some are ornamented with clasped hands, which seem as well executed as a similar device by a European goldsmith. The gold is very pure, and the workmanship such as to promise a considerable perfection in the art if properly encouraged, and an earnest of what advancement might be made in the comforts of civilized life, by this despised and oppressed race, if their talents were properly directed in their own country.

At the distance of seventy miles from the mouth of the river is Debuck, where the native king, Mamadoo, resides. The boats of the *North Star* ascended to it, but when the king heard it he was exceedingly anxious, and would not allow the officer to approach his house. The cause of his alarm was soon evident: this river is concerned with the slave-trade, which continually interferes with and impedes lawful traffic; there was, at that moment, a Spanish schooner lurking in one of the creeks, kidnapp-

ping and carrying off the natives; the captain was actually residing at the king's house, in which he had persuaded him to shut up a cargo of his subjects, and they were waiting only for an opportunity of embarkation.

Immediately off this coast, and opposite the mouths of the rivers, are the Isles de Loss, a corruption of Isle dos Idolos, in latitude 9° 3' N., and forming a cluster of small insular spots. The largest, and that which possesses the greatest capabilities, is *Tamara*, the soil of which is exuberantly fertile, and would produce abundant supplies of vegetables of all kinds for ships in the neighborhood, but it is altogether neglected by the natives, from the uncertainty of a market to dispose of their perishable produce, and also from a feeling of the uncertain tenure of their property, not knowing the moment when they themselves may be seized and sold. There are three or four villages on the island, with houses of a better construction than usual; the principal is called Clarkson's Town. The whole population amounts to about 1200, who are the progeny of former settlers from the main, about Dembia. Some soldiers of the African corps from Sierra Leone have land assigned them here, but no care is taken to instruct them in a proper mode of cultivation. They are allowed to burn the soil, scratch in the grain, and after exhausting it with a crop, leave it to relapse again into its former state of useless and unwholesome waste. It is well adapted to the growth of coffee; and the cotton raised is of a fine quality. Besides Tomara, there are Factory and Crawford Islands, on one of which is a barrack for soldiers.

While the slave-trade was permitted, this group of islands was infamously notorious as the centre of the nefarious traffic; and from time immemorial they had been occupied by factors and agents of different European nations, who kept here openly droves and pens of human beings kidnapped on the continent, ready to be sold and shipped off when called for. Perhaps the world never saw a stain more foul on human nature than this place of resort for all the Christian nations of Europe. Hither ships came from all European countries, fitted out by men of all religious persuasions, except Quakers, and thought it no shame to purchase their fellow-creatures as they would cattle. The Protestants of England, the Calvinists of Holland, the Lutherans

of Germany, and the Catholics of France and Spain, crowded to this place for cargoes of human flesh; and, having sold their unholy freights at an immense profit, thought or pretended to think, they were engaged in a lawful calling; and their respective governments sanctioned and protected it. We have, thank God, so far departed from this proof of the wisdom of our venerable ancestors that we punish with an ignominious death, and hold up to execration the memory of the man, as a worse than common malefactor, who shall dare to commit this atrocious crime; and, though much yet remains to be done, the extinction of the public shambles kept on these islands is some consolation to humanity, and an existing proof of the decline in the traffic of blood.

Since the period of the abolition, the islands were occupied by four English merchants, Carr, Leigh, Lamo, and Hickson, who each of them carried on an extensive lawful trade in African produce, and the warehouses were filled with gold, gums, and ivory, for sale, instead of men, women, and children. On the death of some of these gentlemen, the late Lieutenant Colonel McCarthy took possession of the islands by treaty, in the name of the British government, having stipulated to pay to the native chiefs an annual rent in articles of trade, to the value of £75.

It would now be a transaction highly gratifying if this nest of slave-dealers were finally and permanently superseded by a thriving colony of fair traders, and the human beings formerly driven here for sale to become the free tenants and industrious cultivators of the soil. From their vicinity to the mouths of the rivers Demba, Pongas, and Nunez, the islands would be an important station for trade, as the intercourse would be much more free and direct from hence than from Sierra Leone. If the islands were once regularly established, with a small military force of men of good character, and under a commandant not likely to be removed, and if a proper system of cultivation were adopted and encouraged, so as to afford a regular and constant supply of wood, water, and refreshment to ships of the squadron which would regularly frequent them, the number of resident merchants would increase so that they might become a depot of African produce, and a place of considerable importance. Traders would all touch here, and deposit their cargoes, instead of running up the unhealthy rivers on the opposite pestiferous coast, subject as they

now are to vexatious delays, and to the mortality of their crews from the necessity of drinking the tainted water of these streams. Above all, by making it a free port, open to all foreign vessels and merchandise, the resident British traders would become the agents of the French and Americans, who would prefer resorting here to ascending the rivers on the continent, as they now do, with their goods.

The eligibility of this place as a station must depend on its local advantages; and it appears to be less exceptionable than any which has yet been tried. Wholesome water, from a pure spring, is abundant. Above sixty yards above high-water mark is a copious source, from which vessels were supplied by tubes over the rocks; and boats are filled, without landing the casks, at the rate of thirty tons per day. Firewood is in profusion; oranges and limes may be procured by only sending to pick and choose them; poultry may be had in any quantity; pigs are so numerous that they run about the island without seeming to belong to any particular person, excellent sheep may be bought for ten shillings each; and bullocks, in prime order, are always grazing on the pastures. Should experience realize this flattering picture it will be highly gratifying to the friends of Africa; and one healthy and plentiful spot will at length, be found by the English, on this insalubrious coast, where they may fairly try their benevolent experiment.

On the subject of Sierra Leone, and the causes of its failure, so much has been said that it would be superfluous to repeat them here. Public expectation has not, certainly, been answered; but that these experiments are not of a fanciful or impracticable nature is completely proved by the success which has attended the colony which came next in succession on this coast. This is a bold promontory, called originally Monte Serrado, but corrupted, as all names are, by Negro pronunciation, into Mesurado. The American Colonization Society located here a number of free people of colour, the off-spring of African slaves born in America and liberated. They were sent from the United States, and the settlement was called by the appropriate name of *Liberia*. There are but few white people among them, and none who possess any land. When the colony was first established, the land was procured from the native chiefs by purchase and treaty; but

some misunderstanding arose, the real objects of the colonists were not understood, and several sanguinary conflicts ensued with the natives, who had nearly destroyed the establishment in its infancy. But under the prudent management of Mr. Ashmun, the agent for the society, these differences were reconciled, and amity and good-will established between the natives and the strangers.

The settlement consists of two establishments. The first is Montrovia, on Cape Mesurado, and the other Caldwell, seven miles up the river St. Paul. The whole population amounts to about three hundred families, comprising more than 1500 persons, who have each farms allotted to them, some in the lower and some on the upper settlement. A regular and most improved system of husbandry is insisted on. Every man is not allowed to burn down and cultivate any portion of the land he pleases, as is permitted in our colonies, which, being abandoned the next year and suffered to run into brush, is known to contribute greatly to taint the air, in an extraordinary degree, which cultivation had rendered dubious. Their prescribed system of agriculture is regulated by those plans which local experience has found to be most judicious, wholesome, and productive, and no man is allowed to deviate from it; in this way their maintenance and independence, and to a certain extent, their health is provided for and secured. The males are formed into a regular militia, which, being well trained and served, renders the colony respectable in the eyes of its neighbours, and secures them from any act of aggression, and this force has been efficiently called out more than once to punish depredations and robberies committed by natives on individual colonists while in pursuit of their commercial speculations, either coastwise or in the interior, and always with the best results. This mode of well-regulated self-defence not only gives them courage and confidence in themselves, but it exempts them from the degrading and demoralizing effects of a regular soldiery sent from the parent country, which, being generally of the worst and most desperate description of men, set examples of the most dissolute and profligate lives, as our colonies in Africa know by melancholy experience. This imposing domestic force gives perfect security to these people in their dealings with the natives, and a very profitable and advantageous trade is carried

on for gold, camwood, and ivory, with the Gallinas and Cape Mount, to the north of their settlement, and as far coastwise as Tradetown, to the east of it.

Nothing has tended more to suppress the slave-trade in this quarter than the constant intercourse and communication of the natives with these industrious colonists. The American agent, Mr. Ashmun, took every opportunity and means in his power to extinguish a traffic so injurious in every way to the fair trader; and at Cape Mesurado good and correct information was always to be obtained of any slave-vessels on the coast within the communication or influence of the colony. This active, respectable, and intelligent man is since dead, but his spirit still actuates all his people. They have several large boats and small decked vessels belonging to their community, and others in progress of building. These are actively employed in trading along the coast, and in keeping up the intercourse with Caldwell and the interior.

The river St. Paul does not run directly inland, but takes a course coastwise to the north; it does not therefore penetrate far into the country. The commercial enterprise, however, of the people has been excited by the favourable accounts which had reached them of the interior, and induced several to push their speculations as far as 150 miles without the aid of internal navigation, to a large and populous town, the residence of a native king of considerable influence, with whom a lucrative commerce is now opened, and actively carried on, for gold and ivory; and the supply of the former, through this channel, has greatly exceeded expectation.

The character of these industrious colonists is exceedingly correct and moral, their minds strongly impressed with religious feelings, their manners serious and decorous, and their domestic habits remarkably neat and comfortable. They had the inestimable advantage of being originally brought up in the frugal and pains-taking habits of the people of the country from whence they were sent, and received, when young, the moral, religious, and literary instruction of white people in their class of life.—These they have brought with them, and they practise them with more effect as they have no bad examples to mislead them. Those who have visited them speak highly of their appearance and

mode of living. They are a comely and well-formed race of Negroes, neat and clean in their persons, modest and civil in their manners, and regular and comfortable in their dwellings. Their houses are well built, ornamented with gardens and other pleasing decorations, and on the inside are remarkably clean—the walls well white-washed, and the rooms neatly furnished. They are very hospitable to strangers, and many English naval officers on the station have been invited to dine with them, and joined in their meals, which were wholesome and good. The man of the house regularly said grace, both before and after meat, with much solemnity, in which he was joined by the rest of his family with great seeming sincerity. They all speak good English, as their native language, and without any defect of pronunciation. They are well supplied with books, particularly bibles and liturgies. They have pastors of their own colour and meeting-houses in which divine service is well and regularly performed every Sunday; and they have four schools, at Mesurado, and three at Caldwell. By one ship alone they received 500 volumes, presented by Dartmouth College, and several boxes and packets of school-books, sent by friends at Boston.

The complete success of this colony is a proof that Negroes are, by proper care and attention, as susceptible of the habits of industry and the improvements of social life as any other race of human beings, and that the amelioration of the condition of the black people on the coast of Africa, by means of such colonies, is not chimerical. Wherever the influence of this colony extends, the slave-trade has been abandoned by the natives, and the peaceful pursuits of legitimate commerce established in its place. They not only live on terms of harmony and good-will together, but the colonists are looked upon with a certain degree of respect by those of their own colour, and the force of their example is likely to have a strong effect in inducing the people about them to adopt it. A few colonies of this kind, scattered along the coast, would be of infinite value in improving the natives. They would much sooner acquire their confidence and esteem, as not exciting that jealousy which foreigners always cause; and the very example of their own race, thus raised in the moral and social scale, would be the strongest motive to induce others to adopt and practise those qualities by which they were rendered so much

more comfortable and happy. Should no unfortunate event retard the progress of those colonists, and no baneful vices be introduced among them, there is every reason to hope they will diffuse cultivation and improvement in Africa to a considerable extent, as they have already done, on a limited scale, as far as their influence has reached. The next promontory which occurs is Cape Palmas, on which reside an interesting race. They are called Kroo-men, a fine athletic people, who never suffer themselves to be made slaves. They are found on other parts of the coast, and recognized by a mark down their foreheads. Like the Swiss and Savoyards, they frequently emigrate from home to look for employment, and are often engaged by Europeans, particularly English, to navigate ships and boats.—When they obtain a competency they bring it home, and remain on the Cape with their families.

On the sweep of the coast included between Cape Palmas and Cape Formoso, usually termed the Bight of Benin, are several European settlements, called Cape Coast Castle, Accara, or Aera and Elmina. The first contained a British garrison; but since the Ashantee war it has been abandoned by government, and the sum of £4000 allowed to the British residents to support the station and defend themselves. In the neighbourhood is a village of free blacks. A number of prisoners taken from the Ashantees were located here, and had land assigned and houses built for them by the British. They have been instructed in some of the arts of civilized life, and cultivate the soil with sufficient success to support themselves. They amount to about two hundred persons, and seem so happy and contented with their lot that they show no wish to abandon their assigned residence or to return to their native place. The contiguous settlements of Accara belong to the British, Dutch, and Danes, and are called after the respective people to whom they appertain. Each of these nations is suspected of being engaged in the slave-trade. As long as Cape Coast Castle was held by our government it was a powerful restraint; but, since it has been given up, advantage, it is said, has been taken of the circumstance, and captured slaves are frequently disposed of here under the denomination of domestics.

Farther on is Quitta, a Danish settlement, which maintains here a military force. It was formerly a place of much more im-

port town, as appears by the remains of buildings, but the whole minutely now consists of a sergeant and a small guard, who seem set here rather to protect than to prevent the traffic in slaves. Portuguese vessels, it here on the pretext of purchasing Cowrie shells—a species of *Cypæa* used on the coast as money, of which forty are equal to a penny—but their real business is to purchase slaves. There is a slave-factory three hours, or nine miles, from this place at Awhey, and another, about the same distance at Woly. Slaves are here collected and sent off by water, for the natives in the vicinity will not suffer them to proceed by land, but assemble together when a collier approaches, and seize and liberate all their countrymen. The regulated price of a slave at this place is a criterion by which the value set on a fellow-creature in other parts of Africa may be estimated. An ounce is equal to nine dollars of hard money, but is exchanged in better for an equal value of commodity—twenty-four yards of cloth, one roll of tobacco, four gallons of spirits, or sixteen common square handkerchiefs:—the value in this way is—

For a Man, 9 ounces, or 216 yards of cloth, or 9 rolls of tobacco, or 36 gallons of spirits, or 120 handkerchiefs.

For a Woman, 8 ounces, or 192 yards, or 8 rolls, or 32 gallons, or 128 handkerchiefs.

For a Child, 6 ounces, or 144 yards, or 6 rolls, or 24 gallons, or 96 handkerchiefs.

Most of the slaves procured at the factories near Quitta are transported to Whyda, a place originally called Ajuda by the Portuguese, from the quantity of slaves it supplies, and which are now the only commodity bought and sold here, and the coast is frequented by numerous fleets of Portuguese and Spanish vessels to carry them away. The principal slave-factor here is De Lenza, a native of Lisbon, exiled to this place for crime committed at home. He resides at Whyda, and has acquired great influence over the natives. He has extensive factories for collecting every like other goods ready for shipment. The cargoes of ships are deposited with him, and whatever number they want are ready to embark in one night and sail when it is light in the morning. The number of slaves sold by this single factor is computed to be amount at 6000 every year. Two sla-

vers leave the coast every month, having on board each, on an average 250 persons. This number would be greater were not a providential impediment thrown in the way of embarking them. There is a heavy surf on the coast, and it seldom can be effected at the time of spring-tides. This affords to our cruisers opportunities to watch the coast; and they are always on the alert at particular times of the moon, and frequently catch the cargoes in the act of embarking.

Passing Cape Formoso, the Bight of Biafra commences, into which several great rivers discharge themselves, long infamous for the traffic in slaves. The principal of these rivers are the Bonny and the Old Calabar.* No other trade is carried on here except for human flesh. They take in exchange the usual cargoes of spirits, tobacco, cloth, and gunpowder. This latter article is in particular request here, where they use it as a means of seizing slaves from their less powerful neighbours; and thus this trade is the excitement to war and slavery and the means of carrying them on. The sovereignty of the coast is divided between two barbarians; one called "King Pepel," residing on the river Bonny, and the other "Duke Ephraim," on the Old Calabar. The contest for making slaves, and the opportunity of disposing of them, has excited a deadly enmity between these native ruffians, which the English cruisers avail themselves of. Whenever one of them proposes a cargo the other immediately sends information of it to any ship of war on the coast, detailing the particulars of the cargo, and the state of forwardness for sailing; by which means many have been seized, and the envious and malignant passions of these savages made subservient to the cause of humanity. On one occasion of information of this kind, sent by King Pepel to the British, by which his rival lost his cargo, he was so exasperated that he prepared an expedition to attack him, and take vengeance for the injury and insult. He got a coffin made for Pepel, which he intended to bear before him as an ensign, and sent a messenger to apprise him of it. "Tell Pepel," said he, "that I am coming, and bringing his coffin." "Tell Ephraim," said the other, in reply, "to bring the coffin, and I will put himself in it."

* This paper was written previous to the discovery of the extent of the Slave-trade by Messrs. Lander.

The boats in which the negroes carry on is principally with layers of slaves. They supply the powder, each bringing two hundred pounds, and they are paid for in council for the purpose. As the king of Congo and Popo prepared a grand expedition to suppress the order to supply an extensive order which he had received. His warriors were large and well appointed, and clad in iron plates common, which, as well as the powder, were obtained in England. The use thus made of English arms to be so affecting to humanity. By us the native kings supplied slaves through the country, and extend and perpetuate the very thing we are so anxious to suppress: we wish to put down the slave-trade, and we supply the most effectual means of carrying it on. From the superiority we confer on them, each of them has a ship every month with captives dragged from their homes, and every ship contains a cargo of from three to four hundred slaves, so that we are indirectly the instruments of sending out two thousand slaves from these two rivers every year, for sale to the natives for the markets of Cuba and Brazil.

The whole of this coast, indeed, seems devoted to this traffic. From Cape Form, so to the Old Calabar, there are six large rivers, which fall into the Bight of Biafra. These all communicate with each other, by lateral branches, and afford the greatest facility for conveying the captives, and evading any attempts to intercept them, and ships proceeding to watch one mouth are effectually baffled by the rivers proceeding down another. The numbers sent out a way down the branches of the six rivers, is supposed to exceed those sent by the Benue and Calabar, so that this coast, 1100 miles, or about two hundred and fifty miles of coast, then, must be visited, and the means we supply to its six principal rivers, send away every year 16000 slaves.

From the living water to the mouths of these rivers, and as if it was intended for the purpose, a station for the watching and suppression of the slave trade is the island of Fernando Po, about forty miles from the coast. "Its advantages for every purpose of the kind were so great that in February, 1826, it was proposed to the Spanish government to remove the mixed commission from Sierra Leone to this place, 'as it was in the heart of the slave country, its climate salubrious, and its soil sufficiently fertile.'"

The second quality in this recommendation is found, unfortunately, to be far from truth.

It is a high island, covered with dense wood, with water of an excellent quality, and in any quantity. Large oaks grow down to the edge of the sea, satin-wood, ebony, and other hard and valuable timber abounds. Some fine straight trees are admirably adapted for spars and masts, and some of the ships on the station have been supplied from the island. The native population is very great, amounting to 200,000; they are not black, but of a dark copper colour, or brown red; their hair, not woolly, but long and lank, and their limbs full, muscular, and well proportioned. They seem as if they were descended from the Moors, and have a steady spirit of independence that has resisted all attempts at making them slaves. On this point they are exceedingly jealous and vigilant. They do not hesitate to go on board the king's ships, with a fearless confidence, showing that they are no ways deficient in personal courage; but they evince an exceeding jealousy of strangers penetrating into their villages, or of their advancing to any distance from the coast. They had seen the consequences of European visitations, and, like the Chinese, were disinclined to admit them into their country. They are naked, with the exception of a cloth of platted grass about their loins. They paint their bodies thickly with red ochre, and the more distinguished persons are marked with blue and other colours. Notwithstanding their naked persons, and savage manners, they have made considerable advances in agriculture; part of the island is cleared and highly improved, and their bananas and yams are peculiarly fine; these they barter for pieces of iron hoop, which they receive like regular money. It is cut into lengths of seven inches, and the natives prize it above any other articles of barter, and convert it into knives, daggers, and other implements. They have also fowls, but they are not so good, and die as soon as they are sent on shipboard.

The English settlement is on the north part of the island. It was selected with a view to salubrity, and it was afterwards found, from various remains, to have been the very place where the Spaniards had originally established themselves, when formerly masters of the island—sundry articles of broken pottery, and remnants of walls and bastions, indicate this fact.

The first governor of Ferdinando Po was Captain Owen, who brought with him twenty-five marines, and about two hundred

black soldiers of the African corps, besides carpenters and other artificers, to the number of seven hundred people, who erected a fort, governor's residence and houses for themselves, where they were soon established, with every hope of enjoyment, on this beautiful island, but notwithstanding the anticipations of its healthiness, it was soon found to be exceedingly insalubrious. The men were seized with low intermittent fevers, which in a short time left them in a deplorable state of mental and physical debility, from which very few recovered, and those who did so remained for a considerable time in a state approaching to idiotism.

The last station to which our cruisers were ordered to direct their attention was the river Gaboon, within thirty miles of the equator. It is notorious for its slave-trade. From hence to Mozambique, the whole coast was open to the Brazilians, who collected slaves from Molembo, Cabindo, and other places, which by treaty they were allowed to traffic with, inasmuch so that in the year 1829 no less than 44,000, and in the year 1830, 52,000 slaves were openly imported into and sold in the slave-markets of Rio de Janeiro alone.* On the twenty-third of last March, however, this permission expired, and no native is now allowed to traffic for slaves on any part of the coast of Africa, on pain of being punished as pirates.

It was the general opinion that the vigour and vigilance of our cruisers had nearly suppressed this traffic; such, however, unfortunately, was not the fact. The whole number captured by our cruisers, and sent to Sierra Leone, from June 1819 to July 1828, was 13,281—being, on an average, 1400 per annum; while during that period above 100,000 were annually taken from the coast, either by lawful or unlawful traders. The latter were principally from the isle of Cuba. In 1817 a treaty had been concluded with the Spanish government, that the slave-trade should be abolished in the entire dominions of Spain, and the sum of £400,000 was actually given by the British government, as a compensation to those engaged in it. Notwithstanding this, 20,000 slaves have been annually exported, from the Gallinas and the River Doany, into Cuba alone, by armed vessels of dif-

* *Ward's African Account*, &c.

[†] *Parliamentary Reports*.

ferent nations, who act both as pirates and slavers. Their manner of proceeding is this: they set out from the Havannah to hover about the coast of Africa, and if they can elude our vigilance, and take in a cargo of slaves, they proceed direct with it to Cuba. If not they turn pirates, seize the first ship they meet, preferring one laden with slaves. They murder, and, in some cases, put on shore in desert places, the crew, and proceed with the vessel and cargo to Cuba, where they readily dispose of them; the slaves are landed on the back of the island, and dispersed in various ways through the West Indies and Brazil.

These pirate slavers have been the pest and terror of the tropical regions of the Atlantic for some years; accounts of their atrocities fill the columns of our newspapers, and the law which makes a slave-dealer a pirate, is fully justified, as their characters are now combined and identified. One of the most dangerous and daring of this class has lately fallen into the hands of our cruisers. On the third of September, 1839, Captain Gordon, of His Majesty's sloop, *Primrose*, fell in with the Spanish ship of war *Veloz Passageiro*, pierced for thirty, and mounting twenty guns, commanded by José Antonio de la Bega, bound from Whyda, on the coast of Africa, to the Havannah, having on board five hundred and fifty-five slaves, and a crew of one hundred and fifty men of different nations; and after a short but desperate action, in which the pirate slaver had eighty-six men killed and wounded, with five of the unfortunate slaves, she was taken possession of.*

It appears, then, that while the English public supposed the slave-trade suppressed, it has been carried on for the last ten or

* It appears that this formidable ship had long been known to carry on the nefarious trade. The following passage occurs in Dr. Walsh's "*Notices of Brazil*": "Captain Arabin had met, while on the coast, one of these atrocious vessels. She was a ship of war from the Havannah, commanded by a Spaniard, of the name of José Antonio de la Bega; she was called the *Veloz Passageiro*, mounted twenty-four long guns, and was manned by 161 desperate fellows of all nations. She was capable of containing 1200 slaves, and had a tender in company for stowing 400 more. He (Captain Arabin) had received certain information that he would sail for the Havannah on the first of May, with his own ship and his consort full of slaves, and crossed our course near the Cape about this time. We had been, therefore, for some days, looking out for her, and, as it was supposed he would make a desperate resistance, preparations were made for his reception."—*Vol. ii. p. 471.* They afterwards pursued and captured a pirate slaver, supposing it to be the one they expected, but it turned out to be another and more desperate.

twelve years—to nearly as great an extent, and under much more revolting circumstances than ever; it remains, therefore, for England to consider what must be done for its effectual suppression. Since the twenty-third of March, 1830, the difficulty is considerably abridged, for now the *whole* coast of Africa, from Mozambique to Morocco, is included in the prohibition, and no nation can trade for slaves, under any pretext or evasion, either to the south or north of the line. Much, however, yet remains to be done. The present instructions to His Majesty's ships are so vague and restrictive, that known slavers are constantly met on the coast and in the rivers of Africa, and cannot be molested unless they have the slaves actually on board. This is readily done in one night, as often as the cruiser is called or driven away from her station by business or bad weather; and when she returns again the slaver has departed with her full cargo, and it is in vain to follow her, as vessels of this description are built expressly for speed, and attempts to overtake them are fruitless. By an additional article, in the treaty with the Netherlands, it is stipulated that all vessels are to be considered as slavers, and treated as such, when they have an apparatus, such as hatches with their gratings, shackles, large copper boilers, &c., evidently intended for slaves, even though none should be found on board. This article should be included in the treaties with every other nation, so that any such vessel found on the coast, belonging to any country, should be seized and confiscated.

Again, by treaties with Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, and Brazil, mutual right of search is allowed to cruisers of each nation, but no right of mutual search exists with France and North America, and slaves are continually transported with impunity under their flags. Efforts must be made to induce these latter nations to consent to this arrangement, and no longer to suffer the little etiquettes of national vanity to oppose this great cause of God and man. "If then," says Dr. Walsh, "when the *whole* coast of Africa is protected from this commerce, and no vessel of any nation is permitted to traffic on any part of it, the right of mutual search is acknowledged and acted on by all civilized nations, and every ship found with the damning proofs on board be confiscated, and the crews treated as pirates—then, and not till then, can we hope to see this horrid traffic finally abolished."

With this we perfectly agree; but something more yet remains to be done. As long as Cuba continues in its present state, the *refugium peccatorum* and the receptacle of buccaneers, it is hopeless to attempt to suppress entirely the traffic in slaves. Like the piratical state of Barbary, it is the opprobrium of the civilized world, a nest of pirates, and a den of slaves. We see no reason why it should not be taken possession of like Algiers, if its own weak or wicked government is not able or willing to uphold the common and recognized rights of nations.

But, above all, we must extinguish slavery in our own colonies. As long as that foul blot is permitted to stain our national character, our influence is weakened, and we cannot, with any justice or consistency, prescribe to others that they should not make slaves, when we ourselves hold nearly a million of our fellow-creatures in a similar bondage. As long as unhappy beings perish in that state at home, the cupidity of masters will find means directly or indirectly to supply the loss from abroad. This great act, then, remains to be accomplished, and then England may expect, with the high and commanding auxiliary of her moral influence, that others should follow her example.



ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN MEXICO.

We have been engaged in conversation, for several hours, with a gentleman of liberal education and religious principle, a native of this State, afterwards, for five years, a slave-holder in Mississippi, and now a resident at Metamoras, in Mexico. He has resided in that republic for about ten years, and is personally acquainted in most of the Mexican States. Our conversation turned principally on the abolition of slavery in that country. The fact that slavery was abolished at the time of their declaration of independence, was announced in the newspapers; but we have never seen any such minute account of the circumstances, mode, and results, of the transaction, as rendered the information of much value. Believing that the subject would interest our readers, and even hoping that it might excite inquiry, and eventually throw some light upon the path which our own country must pursue to escape from the evils of slavery, we have obtain-

ed the consent of our informant to lay the substance of our conversation before the public.

In some of the southern provinces, Africans had been introduced, purchased and held, as in the West Indies and in the United States. In the northern provinces, the slaves were, at least generally, of Indian extraction. They were more ignorant than the negroes in our southern States, and more vicious. They were surrounded, too, by a state of society less enlightened and less virtuous than of our slave-holders. Civil government was less understood and less effectually administered. Immediately upon the declaration of independence, a law was passed by the general government for the entire abolition of slavery throughout the Mexican Republic. Each of the provinces, now states, arranged the details of the process of emancipation for itself, but the principles, and in all important respects, the details, were every where the same, and substantially these.

The master at once opened an account with each of his servants, like the following.

LOTT CARY TO		--- --, Dr.	
Jan. 1, 1810.	To cash paid for yourself, - - - - -	\$ 400	
	Do for Mary your wife, - - - - -	400	
	Do for child, years 10, - - - - -	200	
22,	To cash for Mary, - - - - -	2	
Feb. 1,	To cash for child, Mary, or children, - - - - -	5	
20,	To 1st 10 days, - - - - -	1	
March 20,	To food, - - - - -	3	
			\$1,211
Cr.			
April 1, 1810.	By cash, 101st labor, at \$6 per month, - - - - -	\$48	
	Do of Mary, do do, - - - - -	12	
	Do of child, at \$2, - - - - -	6	
			\$36

Here, the original debt is supposed to have been \$1,200, and the balance due to the master at the end of three months is \$1475. At this rate, the whole debt will be paid, and the whole family redeemed, in twelve years. The actual result was, that the great body of those who had been slaves, were out of debt in a shorter time.

Till the debt is paid, the servant is required by law to continue on the *hacienda* plantation, and labour as formerly. While thus employed, he is entitled to his rations, which are a little less than half a bushel of Indian corn per week. If he wishes for more or other food, it is furnished by the master and charged in his

account. The same of all the other necessities and comforts of life. Lest the master should take advantage of the improvidence of the servant, to keep him always in debt, it is enacted that the charges for supplies for a specified time shall never exceed half the amount of the wages of the family for that time, and any charge above that amount is absolutely void in law.

The master has no power to punish his servant, in any manner whatever. The duties of the servant are fixed by law, as definitely as the nature of the case permits, and magistrates are appointed in every neighbourhood, for the express purpose of enforcing them. If the servant is in any way worthy of punishment, the master complains to the magistrate, who investigates the matter and takes the necessary measures to ensure good conduct.— And on the other hand, if the master neglects his duty, the servant has the same means of enforcing its performance.

Among the other duties of the master, he is required to furnish those on his plantation with suitable means of literary, moral and religious instruction; and so generally do the servants avail themselves of this privilege, that nearly all the rising generation will be tolerably versed in reading, writing and arithmetic.

If any servant, whose debts are unpaid, wishes to leave the *hacienda* to which he belongs, he may demand of the master a written statement of his account; and if he can persuade any person to advance the sum due, the master is obliged to receive it, and the servant is transferred to him who advanced the money. Similar transfers take place for the accommodation of the master, but never without the consent of the servant. When his debts are paid, the servant may leave the *hacienda* if he chooses, or remain upon it, if the owner sees fit to employ him; but whether he remains there or removes to another, the mutual duties of master and servant continue the same, and there is the same system of laws to enforce the performance of them.

As the result of this system, the servants paid up their debts, purchase money and all, in a few years. During the process, they acquired habits of forethought and economy. The hope of bettering their condition, gave a spring to their minds, and elevation to their whole characters. Thus they were fitted for the enjoyment of perfect liberty, by the very process of acquiring it. Meanwhile, the despotic character of slavery is changed in-

the conciliating form of parental oversight. The master, when the servant asks for supplies which he ought not to have, commonly says, "My son, you cannot afford it. Such and such purchases are more suitable." The grudge which the slave naturally bears his master, gives way to filial confidence, and both parties regard themselves as members of the same family. Generally, when freed from debt, and at liberty to choose their residence, servants have chosen to remain on the *hacienda* to which they formerly belonged. Some have purchased small building lots and erected houses upon them; but more generally, the excess of their wages over their expenditures is laid up in cash.

Our informant, thinks the example of Mexico invaluable to the United States. He thinks our situation, both as an established and well regulated civil government, and in respect to the character of masters and slaves, much more favorable to the success of such an experiment than theirs was. He declares without hesitation that were he again a planter in Mississippi, and the laws of the State would permit, he would immediately commence the manumission of his slaves on the Mexican system, and has no doubt of a beneficial result.

We asked him one question, which we were almost ashamed to ask, and are now almost ashamed to record; but degrading as is the thought of introducing such considerations, on a subject which involves the mental and moral wellbeing of millions, we think it necessary in order to remove an objection which will exist and have influence in minds that are quite ashamed to avow it. We asked him whether any planter had been *made poor* by the termination of slavery. He at once answered in the negative and stated that the plantations were now worth more than the plantations with the slaves on them formerly were. No one has been made poor by it. It has given property to the servant, and increased the riches of the master.

The justice of charging the slaves with their purchase money, how the amount of that charge is to be determined, and what modification the system needs, to adapt it to our southern States, are subjects on which we shall not at present speak. We commend the whole subject to the serious consideration of the people of the United States, and especially to that part of our citizens, whom it most nearly concerns.—*Vermont Chronicle*.

A LAW OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

An Act Relating to the People of Colour of this State.

SECTION I. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the governor and council shall, as soon as conveniently may be, after the passage of this act, appoint a board of Managers, consisting of three persons, who shall at the time of their appointment, be members of the Maryland State Colonization Society, whose duty it shall be to remove from the State of Maryland the people of colour now free, and such as shall hereafter become so, to the Colony of Liberia in Africa, or to such other place or places out of the limits of this State, as they may approve of, and the person or persons so to be removed shall consent to go to, according to the provisions of this act, and to provide for their establishment and support as far as necessary, and to discharge the other duties required of them by this act; and before the said managers shall proceed to act, they shall severally give bond to the State of Maryland, in the penalty of ten thousand dollars, conditioned for their faithful accounting for all the moneys that may come to their hands, which bond shall be approved by one of the judges of Baltimore county court and sent to the treasurer of the Western Shore of this State.

SECTION II. *And be it enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Treasurer of the Western Shore to pay to the board of managers to be appointed as hereinafter directed, such sums as they shall from time to time require, not exceeding mall, the sum of twenty thousand dollars during the present year, to be applied by them, as they in their discretion shall think best, in removing or causing to be removed such slaves as may hereafter become free, and such people of colour as are now free and may be willing to remove out of the State to the Colony of Liberia on the coast of Africa, or to such other place or places out of the limits of the State as they may think best, and as the said persons so to be removed, may consent to go to, in the manner hereinafter provided; and the said board may from time to time make such preparations at the said Colony of Liberia or elsewhere as they may think best, which shall seem to them expedient for the reception and accommodation and support of the said persons so to be removed, until they can be enabled to support themselves and shall also take such measures as may seem to them necessary and expedient to obtain and place before the people of colour of the State of Maryland, full and correct information of the condition and circumstances of the Colony of Liberia, or such other place or places to which they may recommend their removal, and shall return a faithful account of all their expenditures of the said sums and make a full report of all their proceedings to the next general assembly of this State.

SECTION III. *And be it enacted,* That it shall hereafter be the duty of every clerk of a county in this State, whenever a deed of manumission shall be left in his office for record, and of every Register of Wills, in every county of this State, whenever a will, manumitting a slave or slaves, shall be admitted to probate, to send within five days thereafter, (under a penalty of ten dollars for each and every omission so to do, to be recovered before any justice of the peace, one half whereof shall go to the informer and the other half to the State;) an extract from such deed or will, stating the names, number and ages of the slave or slaves so manumitted, (a list whereof, in the case of a will so proved, shall be filed therewith, by the executor or administrator) to the board of managers for Maryland, for removing the people of colour of said State; and it shall be the duty of the said board on receiving the same to notify the American Colonization Society, or the Maryland State Colonization Society thereof, and to propose to such society that they shall engage, at the expense of such society, to remove the said slave or slaves so manumitted to Liberia; and if the said society shall so engage, then it shall be the duty of the said board of managers to have the said slave or slaves delivered to the agent of such society, at such place as the said society shall appoint, for receiving such slave or slaves, for the purpose of such removal, at such time as the said society shall appoint; and in case the said society shall refuse so to receive and remove the person or persons so manumitted and offered, or in case the said person or persons shall refuse so to be removed, then it shall be the duty of the said board of managers to remove the said person or persons to such other place or places beyond the limits of this State, as the said board shall approve of, and the said person or persons shall be willing to go to, and to provide for their reception and support at such place or places as the said board may think necessary, until they shall be able to provide for themselves, out of any money that may be earned by their hire, or may be otherwise provided for that purpose, and in case the said person or persons shall refuse to be removed to any place beyond the limits of this State, and shall persist in remaining therein, then it shall be the duty of said board to inform the sheriff of the county wherein such person or persons may be, of such refusal, and it shall thereupon be the duty of the said sheriff forthwith to arrest or cause to be arrested the said person or persons so refusing to emigrate

the same collector or collectors as county charges are collected, the **levy courts** or commissioners as the case may be, and the Mayor and city council of Baltimore respectively taking bond with sufficient security from each collector for the faithful collection and payment of the money in the treasury of the Eastern or Western Shore, as the case may be, at the time of paying other public moneys, to aid for the use of the State.

SECTION IX. And be it enacted, That the sheriffs of the several counties of this State shall be, and they are hereby required, to cause the number of the free people of colour, inhabiting their respective counties, to be taken, and cause to be made a list of the names of the said free people of colour residing in their respective counties; the said enumeration shall distinguish the sexes of said free people of colour, and the said list shall state the ages of such free people of colour, for effecting which the sheriffs aforesaid shall have power, and are hereby required, to appoint one or more assistants in their respective counties; the said list of names and the said enumeration shall be made by an actual inquiry by such sheriff or his assistant at every dwelling house, or by personal inquiry of the head of every family, the said listing and enumeration shall commence on the first day of June next, and be completed within three months thereafter, and the said sheriffs shall make out two copies of said list and enumeration, stating the names, sexes, and ages of the free people of colour, in their respective counties, and shall deliver one copy to the clerk of their respective counties, whose duty it shall be to record the same in a book, by him to be kept for that purpose, and the other copy shall be by said sheriffs transmitted to the board of managers appointed under this act, and every sheriff failing to comply with the duties prescribed in this section, shall forfeit two hundred dollars, to be recoverable in the county court of their respective counties, by action of debt or indictment.

SECTION X. And be it enacted, That the compensation of every sheriff and assistant shall be at the rate of two dollars and twenty-five cents for every fifty persons by him returned, except where such person resides in the city of Baltimore, where such sheriff or assistant shall receive at the rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents for three thousand, and at the rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents for every three hundred persons over three thousand residing in the city of Baltimore, which said compensation shall be levied on the assessable property within the respective counties, and be collected in the same manner, and by the said collector or collectors as county charges are collected, and be by them paid over to the person entitled to receive the same: *provided*, that the Levy Courts or Commissioners of the respective counties and the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, as the case may be, may, if they deem the compensation hereby allowed inadequate, allow such further compensation as they may deem proper.

SECTION XI. And be it enacted, That the several sheriffs of the counties of this State shall, from time to time, make report to the said Board of Managers of such of said free people of colour, in their said counties, as they shall find willing to remove from the State, stating therein the names, ages and circumstances, of such persons, and the place or places beyond the limits of this State to which they are willing to remove, and whether they are or are not able to defray the expenses of such removal, whether any such means are provided; and it shall be the duty of the said Board of Managers when ever they shall ascertain by the said reports of the said sheriffs or otherwise, that such persons of colour are willing to remove from the State, to make a register of their names and ages, and take such measures as they may think necessary for their removal as soon as practicable, either to the Colony of Liberia, or to such other place or places beyond the limits of this State, which the said Board may approve of, and to which they may be willing to go, and it shall be the duty of the said Board, if there shall be offered to them more than they can send in any one year, from the different counties as aforesaid, to apportion the same among the said counties, according to the number respectively of their free people of colour, as appears by the last census.

SECTION XII. And be it enacted, That nothing in this act shall be taken or construed to extend to free slaves or slaves who may be entitled to his, her, or the freed one, his, her, or her, by virtue of any deed of manumission executed and recorded according to law prior to the passage of this act, or last will and testament duly admitted to probate before the passage of said act, unless he, she, or they, shall consent thereto.

By the House of Delegates, March 14, 1832. This engrossed bill, the original of which passed this House the 9th day of March 1832, was this day read and assented to.

By order

GEO. G. BREWER, Clerk.

By the Senate, March 14, 1832. This engrossed bill, the original of which passed the Senate the 12th day of March, 1832, was this day read and assented to.

By order

JOS. H. NICHOLSON, Clerk.

GEO. HOWARD

FROM LIBERIA.

By the return of the *James Perkins*, Capt. Crowell, which left Liberia on the 26th of January, we have despatches which represent the Colony to be decidedly prosperous. Capt. Crowell arrived at the Colony, after a quick passage of 55 days, on the 14th Jan. and landed 543 emigrants, all in good health. "It gives me pleasure," he remarks, "to add that I experienced much less trouble with them than I anticipated, never having occasion to resort to any mode of government, except that of mild and reasonable requests, and all my orders were uniformly received with cheerfulness, and promptly obeyed; to which cause, under the protecting hand of Providence, I in some measure ascribe their perhaps unparalleled health during the passage; for I am persuaded that if a like number had been distributed in the largest county in Virginia, they could not have enjoyed greater freedom from disease than those did while on board my ship.

"After conducting their families and effects to Caldwell, several of the most respectable of them, paid us a parting visit the day before we sailed, and expressed themselves in a very satisfactory manner relative to the general appearance of the country and town, their prospects of gaining a livelihood, &c. and I quote their own words, "thought they could, with industry, get a good living there, and be their own masters besides."—Extracts from the valuable communications of the Colonial Agent, will appear in our next number. We will only remark, that every thing seems to be prepared for a much larger, and more rapid emigration to Liberia than has hitherto taken place. "You can have no idea," observes the Colonial Agent, "of the favourable impressions we have made on the natives of the country. They are constantly sending messages, requesting us to settle at different points on the coast, from Cape Mount, to below Trade Town, and means only are wanting to enable us to occupy any portion of the coast between these two points." Africa is indeed inviting her long exiled children to return to her bosom, and her past and present sufferings make an appeal in their and her behalf, which it would be criminal, if not impossible to resist.



COMMERCE WITH LIBERIA.

The Committee, which was referred a resolution to inquire into the propriety of making some arrangements with a commercial agent to secure the regular despatch of vessels to Liberia, made the following Report, which has been adopted by the Board of Managers.

That it would be inexpedient for the Board of Managers to prosecute, themselves, in connection with others, any commercial arrangements which would in any way subject the Colony to the competition of all those who may be disposed to engage in trade to Liberia. A temporary aid might perhaps be afforded to the efforts of the Society by a commercial scheme founded on exclusive privileges; but such a monopoly, by affecting the field of competition, could scarcely fail to diminish the aggregate of its commerce, and would be attended by the usual and inevitable evils of a monopoly. So far as supplies are sent for the subsistence of the colony by the Society, it might, on first consideration, be considered as fair, that they should be received free from duty; but when it is reflected that the apprehension of those disposed to engage in trade to Liberia, with a view to profit, that, under the present quantities of goods might be introduced into the Colony, duty

free, to an unlimited amount, the effect would almost be to deter merchants from engaging in the trade along ther, or, if they should engage in it, to do so on so restricted a scale as to hazard the supplies required for the support of the Colony, or to furnish them at enhanced and extravagant prices, whereby injury would in this way be inflicted much beyond the benefit that might ensue from the partial supplies furnished by the Society or its privileged agents.

But there is another, which it is believed is the correct view to be taken of the subject. The supplies for the Colonists form but an inconsiderable portion of the demand that may be created by the wants of the adjacent inhabitants. It is the supply of these wants that presents a great commercial field, and will probably the most effectually advance the civilization of Africa, and with it the extermination of the slave trade. They who shall supply these wants on the fairest and lowest terms, will command this trade, and will ensure to it the greatest security and expansion. All experience shows that unrestricted individual interest constitutes the surest means of effecting this object; and that all other means, whatever illusory promises they may at first hold out, are soon converted into instruments of corruption and oppression. In short, the nearer Liberia can be approximated to a free port, the stronger and broader will be the foundations of a prosperous Colony. While, however, the soundness of this view of the subject is considered as incontrovertible, it is believed that great advantage may arise from the Society, in the incipient stage of the Colony, using such means as it may command, without any exclusive privileges, to extend the field of commerce, by contributing its aid towards more extensive and regular supplies. And it is a recommendation of this object, that it will likewise yield the readiest means of a gradual and regular transportation of emigrants. The Committee, under these impressions, recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That it is advisable to establish a regular system of Packets between the United States and Liberia, for the transportation of emigrants and goods, one of which shall depart from this country every two months, and, when the funds of the Society admit, every month; that such vessel be of between 200 and 400 tons burden.

Resolved, That, towards effecting this object, proposals be publicly invited of the terms on which such vessels will be furnished, including all the expenses incident to the voyages.

INTELLIGENCE.

VIRGINIA.—We regret to state that the Bill appropriating \$235,000 for the present, and \$90,000 for the next year, to aid in the colonization of her free people of colour, and which passed the House of Delegates, has been lost in the Senate by a very small majority. That the measure will ultimately succeed, we have not a doubt, and the success at the next session of the Legislature is certain, if the friends of the cause will do their duty.

MARYLAND.—This State, it will be seen by our present number, has engaged vigorously in the great cause. She has appropriated \$20,000 annually for ten years, for the civilization of her free people of colour, and this sum we are confident will be augmented as circumstances may show to be desirable. The whole American people are becoming deeply interested in a scheme full of blessings for this country and for Africa.

CONTRIBUTIONS

To the American Colonization Society, from 7th February, 1832, to 12th March, 1832.

Collection by Rev H W Hunt, of 2nd Pres Ch Woodbridge, near New Brunswick, N J per Simon Memdy,	5
Charles Kellog, of Kellogsville, Cayuga county, New York, The Young Ladies composing the circle of industry in the East Parish, Rutland, Vt—Miss Mary B Page, Treasurer, per William Page, of Rutland,	10
Collection by Rev T D Baird, Pittsburg, Pa	\$3 75
Donation by Ditto,	1 25
Centre Cong'l Soc in Gilmantown, N H per Rev H Rood, Seth Shelby, South Yarmouth, Maine,	2
	3

Miss Ann Maria Ingless, Newberg, New York,	1	
Collection by Rev G W Janyer, Piquette Ch. Pitts-grove, N J by Rev James C Barnes, in his Ch (his letter is not dated at any place, and it is not known where he res. &c.)	11	
Miss Cowper, near Savannah, Georgia,	5	
Rev R R Gailly, postscript on a private letter returned,	6	18
Everett Peck, of Rochester, Monroe co N York, viz: Collection by Rev G M Ch. Pres Ch Raga,	\$12 50	
in 1st Pres Ch Portage co New York,	3 19	
by W H Brown, Esq. Baptist Church, Pond H,	10	
Aux Soc. Orlin, by Josiah Strong, Tr.	7	— 32 69
Rev J Louty, of Va for balance of collection by him, per Hon Mr Armstrong,	2 40	
G A Elliott, of Erie, Pa per Hon George Banks, viz: From the Aux Society,	\$1	
Hugh Wilson, of Union Township, Pa	5	— 6
Rev T Allen, of Maryland, Pa per Hon Mr Banks, viz: Collection in Komey of Congregation,	\$1 16	
in Watson's Run ditto,	66	— 1 82
Oliver P Holditch, of New Haven, Conn viz: From Ladies of Norwich, Ct.	\$35	
Ladies of New Haven, Ct.	77	
this sum over the amount intended,	1	— 113
Collection by Rev M. Crosby, in Pennsylvania, viz: <i>Harrisburg, Dauphin county</i> —A L Dean 5, Wm Graydon 5, J H West 1, R H Shannon 5, R Sloan 5, A Graydon 5, J Trotter 5, A Mahon 5, C Blythe 5, L Blythe 5, W Boyd 5, H R L 1, H Smyron 2, H Beyer 1, Line 5 preceding do- nors are members of the Legislature—J Johnson 5, S Ag- new 5, W R Dewitt 1, D Zacharias 1, J Zeigler 1, J Peacock 2, J P Kellor 1, J M Kliney 1, H Antis 1, W M Carson 1, A M Piper 1, J A Wells, W Allison 1, A Brennen 1, H Mc Gowan 1, J Berylhill 2, J Davies 1, J Roberts 1, G Gailla- her 5, H Cross 1, M M Kliney 1, J Wright 2, J M Forster 5, S Decker 1, A H Lockman 1, Cash and donations less than a dollar 100, McKee 1,	121 25	
<i>Harrisburg, Berks county</i> —Owen & Ragule 5, M J Biddle 5, W Diller 5,	15	
<i>Lancaster, Lancaster county</i> —W Kirkpatrick 19, The Misses A Yates 19, A Edmader 1, J Hopkins 5, W Hopkins 5, Mrs J H H 5, G S Meyer 5, J De-muth 5, A F Hayes 5, H Keffler 2, J R M Cunnery 1, Mrs Shadner 1, J Cochran 1, Mrs Slay- maker 1, J L De-muth 1, J N Cholson 1, R Jackson 1, Mrs McGoy 1, J Malt 1, R Laver 1, W Jenkins 2, M S Coning- ham 1, J L Johnson 1, G Clarks 1, G H King 2, M Dick- son 1, Mrs Lockman 1, W Fick 1, G L Atlee 2, Mrs Brien 2, Mrs L H Bhead 1, F A Muhlenburg 2, Mrs C Jenkins 1 50, and of donors less than a dollar 2 25, Cash 20 25,	114	
<i>Columbia, Lancaster county</i> —Amount paid by John McKis- sack, Treasurer of the Columbia Aux Colonization Society <i>Maryland, Frederick county</i> —D H Hochman 1, J B Matteson 1, J A Stenot, Miss A Whitehall 1, J Steele 1 50, J Quinn 1, and donors 1, H Hays 1 50, Cash 1 50, amount of donors less than a dollar 1 75,	37 41	12 25
<i>York, York county</i> —Amount paid by J Voglesong, Treasur- er of the York county Colonization Society, it being the avails of subscriptions and collections in York,	49 02,	

Donations,	24 50	73 52
Total donations and coll's acknowledged in the list,		\$373 43
Amount of collections acknowledged by me in former lists, but not forwarded, 130 95 Cash 2		132 95
Rev George Potts, of Natchez, Miss as follows—		
2nd annual payment of S. D. for 5 years, \$100		
2nd ditto, E. D. ditto, 100		
2nd ditto, M. D. ditto, 100		
2nd ditto, F. S. ditto, 100	—	400
Aux Col Soc Albemarle co Va. per T. W. Gilmer, Esq.		25
Collection in Baptist Cong. Petersburg, Va.—under pastoral care of Rev G. Mason, by W. M. Atkinson,		6 31
Dr Alex Somerville, of Essex co Va. per Hon C. F. Mercer, . .		14
Yellow Spring Congregation, Greene co Ohio, per J. Crane, Esq.	\$17 25	
Dr John Steele, Dayton, Ohio, per ditto,	25	— 42 25
John Coyle to supply the Colony with Bibles,		20
Rev E. Cheever, of Stillwater, N. Y.—collection in Pres Ch of that place, (should have been acknowledged earlier)		15
Aux Soc of Carrollton, Indiana, per Hon J. Duncan,		38
Aux Soc Newark, N. J. A. W. Corey, Tr. per Hon Mr. Frelinghuysen, as follows, viz:—		
Collection by Rev Mr Johnson, of Lexington Heights, Greene co New York, \$14		
From Female Benevolent Association, by Rev Mr Johnson,	10	— 24
Hon Ths M. T. McKennon, as follows, viz:—		
From Daniel More, Esq. Tr Aux Col Society, Washington co Pa of which the sum of \$14 40 was collected by Rev J. Stockton, of Pres Ch Cross Creek Village, Washington co Pa		
From Aux Society,	\$11 85	
Collection by Mr Stockton,	14 40	
From Aux Soc of West Middleton, Washington co Pa J. McEaulon, Tr	15	— 41 25
Hon Theodore Frelinghuysen—sent to him by Dr McDowell, of Elizabethtown, N. J.—from Rev Eli Meehin, of the Presbytery of Elizabethtown, now in Jonesborough, Tenn to constitute him a life member,		20
Ohio State Col Soc per S. Reynolds, Esq. Tr—to be applied to removal of emigrants designated by said Society, . . .		400
John Dunlop, Edinburg, Great Britain, per Rev Dr Laurie, . .		10
George A. Elliott, Esq of Erie county, Pa per Hon John Banks—in addition to \$6 paid and credited 29 February, . .		5 79
Indiana Col Soc per Isaac Coe, Tr as follows—		
Collection in Pres Ch by Rev J. R. Moreland, pastor (Indianapolis),	\$10 57	
in Meth Ch of Indianapolis, by Rev Thomas Hill,	13 50	
in Pres Church, Washington, Davis co by Rev Ransom Hawley, . . .	4 10	
in Pisgah Ch (Pres) Clark county, by Rev J. Dickey,	6 75	
Balance by the Society,	31 58	— 66 50
General Eben Elmer, of Bridgetown, Cumberland co N. J. per Hon Theodore Frelinghuysen,		100
Daniel Cloud, Shenandoah co Va. per John V. Rigdon, Baltimore,		5

